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BILL JONES
Secretary of State
State of California

ELECTIONS
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For Hearing and Speech Impaired
Only 1-800-833-8683
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October 3, 2001

TO: City Clerks

FROM: _____
John Mott Smith
Chief, Elections Division

SUBJECT: VOTING SYSTEM DECERTIFICATION - NOTICE OF HEARING

On September 18th of this year Secretary of State Bill Jones, pursuant to his authority under Government Code section 12172.5 and Elections Code section 19222, officially decertified all Votomatic and Pollstar voting systems. A copy of the proclamation to this effect is attached. The effective date for decertification of these voting systems is January 1, 2006, except that the Secretary's order directed his staff to hold hearings among the affected 9 counties in California to determine if an earlier effective date is feasible or desirable.

This is to inform you and your Board that these hearings have been scheduled as follows:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES (SAN BERNARDINO, LOS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO)

DATE: Wednesday, November 14, 2001

TIME: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

WHERE: Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Room # 374
Los Angeles, California 90012

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES (Alameda, Mendocino, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Shasta, Solano)

DATE: Thursday, November 15, 2001

TIME: 10:00 am to 1 pm

PLACE: Sacramento
Secretary of State Office
1500 11th Street First Floor Multi-Purpose Room
Sacramento California 95814

Because your county is directly affected by the decertification of these voting systems, we are inviting your participation at these hearings. Specifically:

1. We would like a representative or designee of your Board, as well as the appropriate persons from your Fiscal and Elections departments, to represent your county at the hearings.
2. Each county should be prepared to provide **written testimony** and documentation of the earliest timeline for successful implementation of a new voting system.
3. Each county will also be offered the opportunity to provide **oral testimony** in support of the information for implementation of a new voting system. An official transcript of the hearings will be produced.
4. We invite testimony on all phases and timelines of implementing a new voting system, including, but not limited to:
 - (A) A public process for the Board of Supervisors to identify a preferred new voting system;
 - (B) Funding options and scenarios based on whether the \$200 state "Democracy Fund" bond measure for new voting systems is passed by the voters in March;
 - (C) Procurement issues and timelines, including your RFP process, budget cycle information, funds availability, legal requirements, and possible protests to award of a bid for a new system;
 - (D) Retooling election processes, including warehouse configuration and delivery of equipment to polling places;
 - (E) Phased in implementation schedules to build public support for and understanding of the proper operation of the new voting system;
 - (F) Training of pollworkers and other election personnel necessary for implementing the new system;

- (G) Public relations efforts to inform voters of the new voting system and how to use it to accurately cast ballots;
- (H) Any effect on city or other local elections that would effect the timeline of implementation of a new voting system;
- (I) Proposed absentee voting systems and integration into the precinct balloting process and equipment.
- (J) Risk analysis or other related information.

Manufacturers of voting equipment will also be invited to attend these hearings and to provide testimony regarding potential issues with conversion of voting systems in multiple counties and states simultaneously.

While these hearings are independent of any pending court proceedings, it is possible that the record developed through written and oral testimony could become a part of information used by a court in a separate consideration of an appropriate implementation date.

We look forward to your participation. If you have any questions concerning this hearing, please contact me directly at 916/657-2132.

Thank you.

P.S. Please RSVP to let us know the number of persons who will be attending, as well as their names, so that we can plan accordingly.

Attachment

B&e/hearings-101